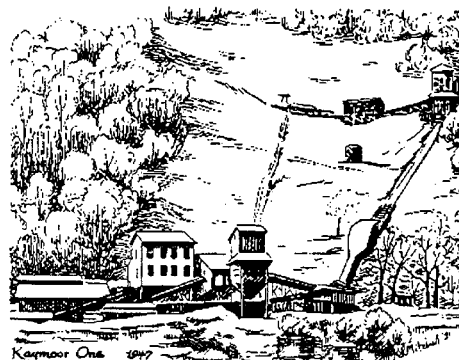


COAL MINING

Pre-Visit Activity

Activity	Kaymoor, A Coal Town
Setting	Classroom
Duration	One hour for five days
Subject Areas	Science, Language, Reading, Math
Skills	Mapping, Interviewing, Communications
Grade Level	4-5



Objective:

Students will be able to:

1. locate the town of Kaymoor by using a West Virginia and New River Gorge River map
2. learn about the Kaymoor mine and community
3. gain some concept of how coal was mined in the late 1800s and early 1900s

WV-IGOs:

Language Arts - 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.16, 4.85, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.11

Social Studies - 4.24, 4.25, 4.39, 4.44, 4.46

WV studies - WV16, WV17, WV19

VOCABULARY

See glossary

MATERIALS

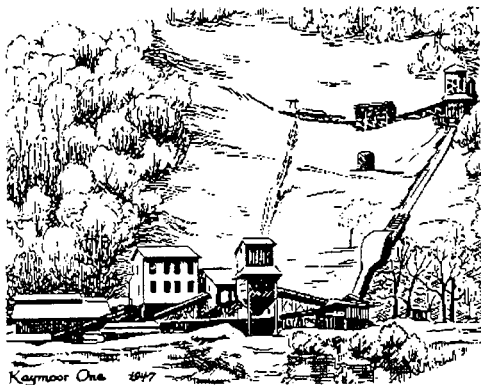
1. old mining items that students can bring into class from home (scrip, scrip cards, tags, payroll slips, brass check, scatter tags, etc.)

BACKGROUND

Coal and coal mining in New River Gorge played an important role in local history, as well as national history. The New River Gorge became a huge “melting pot” as people from all over Europe and the United States came to fill coal-related jobs. There were Englishmen, Irishmen, Hungarians, Italians, Poles, Swedes, Lithuanians, Macedonians, Greeks, and African Americans seeking work during the Civil War reconstruction days. These hardy folk gave a rich variety of culture and a wide ethnic background to the mining town.

The town the miner lived in was the center of life. The mine operator was the organizer of the town where his workers lived. Through this organization he could maintain his workforce and also recoup some of the wages paid out. These towns were carved out of the wilderness, and houses were built wherever space could be found. Each town had a company store, churches, blacksmith shop, and often a baseball field. Blacks, whites, and immigrants all lived in relative peace although there was some segregation in the towns. The early coal miner worked hard, long hours. Work conditions of the miner were largely determined by the company he worked for.





MATERIALS

Continued

2. book: *King Coal - A Pictorial Heritage of West Virginia Coal* by Stan Cohen
3. *History of WV* film by WNPB (may be in your school or local library)
4. West Virginia state map
5. New River Gorge National River map
6. book: *Kaymoor, A New River Community*
7. handouts on Kaymoor
8. copies of oral history transcripts or tapes on Kaymoor

PROCEDURES

1. Using the state and park maps, have the students locate New River Gorge National River and the site of Kaymoor. Have them find their town or community on the state map and compare their proximity to the New River.
2. Divide the class into smaller groups and have them read a chapter on Kaymoor from the book *Kaymoor, A New River Community* and summarize what they read to the class. Discuss what the town looked like during its prime. Show pictures from the book.
3. Compare Kaymoor to their community. What is similar or different and what advantages and disadvantages do each have?
4. Read or listen to some of the oral history interviews from people who lived in Kaymoor.
5. Use the book *King Coal* and the documentary *History of WV* to show other examples of life in a coal town.

EVALUATION

Have students prepare a half paper summary on what they learned about Kaymoor.

EXTENSION

1. Have the students interview a person who lived in a coal town and report what they learned to the class.
2. Invite people who have lived or worked in a coal town to come to your classroom for a question and answer session (students can bring in guest speakers).

